

THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Publishers

Published Every Thursday Afternoon at Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan

H. S. BARCOCK - Editor ELINOR G. BARCOCK - Associate Editor

The Record is entered at the postoffice at Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the mail as second class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

One copy, one year.....\$2.00 One copy, three months.....1.00
One copy, six months.....1.50 Outside of State, one year.....2.50

ADVERTISING RATES

For advertising rates apply for schedule. Notices of church and lodge socials and entertainments where admission is charged, regular advertising rates. Ordinary notices, 125 words free, over that, one cent per word. All obituary notices, one cent per word. Classified ads, one cent per word each issue, with a minimum price of 25 cents, cash in advance; stamps accepted.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THERE'S A REASON

Our good friend Post, who manufactures postum cereal, adopted as his slogan "There's a reason," and the idea was worth millions to him.

There is a reason for all things. Certain causes are always followed by certain effects. We have been going through a very trying time in this country, and are still travelling along that line. Various reasons have been assigned, but probably extravagance and wastefulness have been the main reasons for our troubles. The cost of government has increased until the figures are simply staggering. The human mind can scarcely grasp the situation. Bureaus, boards, investigating committees, assistants and sub-assistants have multiplied until the salaries run into billions. And all this money must be raised by taxing the people one way or another.

Recent reports reveal the fact that the cost of government is simply enormous.

It cost about \$8,500,000,000 to run the combined federal, state and local governments of the United States in the 1920 fiscal year. On the basis of a total population of 117,860,000 this means that everyone's share of the expenditure is slightly more than \$72. In other words the daily expense of maintaining national and subordinate administrations was over \$23,287,000. The federal government alone expended more than \$5,000,000,000 while to this must be added \$3,500,000,000 spent by states and their municipalities. The country has never before known such a tremendous expenditure in peace time.

The largest slice of federal expenses was eaten up by obligations arising from the World war, amounting to about \$1,635,000,000. Of this amount government operation of railroads cost \$1,038,000,000 and shipping board expenses were \$470,000,000. The policy of building a larger navy and maintaining a bigger army took \$1,350,000,000 of which the major share—\$735,000,000—went to the war department. The surplus applied to national debt reduction was \$1,080,000,000. The interest item alone amounted to \$930,000,000 more. Pensions, etc., ate up \$330,000,000. Legislative, executive and judicial costs represented a total of \$224,000,000. Public works charged \$85,000,000 and research activities added \$57,000,000 more.

Municipal expenditures have also mounted enormously. The cost of governing 227 leading cities with a total population of 21,000,000 is placed at \$1,200,000,000. State expenditures likewise took a big jump. The 48 states spent about \$600,000,000 during the year.

Wage earners in this country number about 40,000,000. Their total income is placed at \$64,000,000,000, an average of \$1,600 to every man, woman and child who works. It is figured that out of every dollar earned 12½ cents goes in taxes in one form or another, which is an excessively high figure. Figuring the government cost in averages, the contribution of every wage earner toward the government was \$210.

If we are ever to get any relief from this condition of affairs, we must make a united protest and insist that some of the barnacles must be cleaned off the ship of state. Economy in governmental affairs is absolutely essential to our welfare.

THE PRACTICAL EQUILIBRIUM

Party platforms have agreed upon the declaration that human labor is not a commodity, but neither party platforms nor any other declarations can overturn the law of supply and demand. When carpenters, bricklayers, steelworkers, plumbers and farm hands demanded wages that the public thought too high in proportion to the amount of work done, the public quit buying the labor of that class of workmen. Any laborer can fix the rate of wages he will accept, but he cannot compel anyone else to pay the rate. Any man who is desirous of building a house can state the wages he is willing to pay, but he cannot force anyone to work at that rate. A practical equilibrium in the labor and employment market will be restored when those who want work done and those who want work to do can arrive at the same ideas concerning the wage to be paid and the amount of service to be rendered for the wage. Aside from a few selfish people, the country in general believes in a fair day's work, and, conversely, a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. The sooner an approximate understanding can be reached, the sooner the long-needed building program will be started and the sooner the army of unemployed will be at work. Injustice and unfairness on the part of the employer or employee is always detrimental to the common welfare. Normal conditions can be restored only by a fair understanding.

TOO BUSY

We hear this refrain so often that it is becoming hackneyed. I meant to do so, but I was too busy. I intended to write that letter but I was too busy. I fully expected to have called upon this or that new neighbor but I was too busy. Yes, I suppose she is lonesome, just moving into a new neighborhood where she knows no one, but I am too busy. I know that I should read some really good books for my own good, but I am too busy. I suppose that my help is needed in church and civic affairs but I am too busy. My children would love to have me visit school and show more interest in their affairs but really I am too busy.

I am afraid we shall most of us be obliged to plead guilty in assisting to overwork this little phrase. But if we stop a moment in our mad career to do a little thinking, we will most of us discover that it is really the busiest people after all who find time to do all these things and a thousand more, and most of us find time to do the things that we really want to do. So the question resolves itself, after all, to the fact that our own inclinations have a great deal to do with our accomplishments.

Selfishness never pays large dividends in the long run, although it may sometimes appear to do so.

The Open Forum

This Forum will accept communications up to 250 words in length on matters of community and county interest. Communications in regard to personal controversies, religious discussions and political disputes will not be accepted. All copy must be in not later than Tuesday and all communications must be signed.

GROWING TREES AND GROWING BOYS

Mr. Ammi W. Wright who did so much to give our fair city a place on the map in an early day, showed excellent judgment and his deep interest in his own and coming generations when he preserved for them some of the primeval forest which we know and enjoy today as Wright Park.

Without the beautiful homes and the blossoming gardens of Messrs. King, Rhodes, Ruggles, Lamb and others, our city would lose much of its uplifting effect that comes from the study of form and color, for cold and cheerless store and factory walls can teach but little of the aesthetic.

The crimson ramblers at the depot and the little plots of roses and flowers that are scattered here and there about the city will leave a much more lasting and happy memory with the transient who is passing through our city than will water towers and factory chimneys. I doubt if the average citizen fully appreciates the excellent work that is being done by the Civic Improvement League, and the Garden Club.

It requires foresight, patience, work, and some money to make a city that is worthy of the name. To secure a fine grove, the trees must be properly cared for. Flower gardens require much study and attention, if neglected, the dandelion will crowd out the violet and the gladiolus will be displaced by ragweed.

There is one crop that the city of Alma is neglecting and that is our crop of boys and girls. It takes money, time, and attention to produce a pure and rosy-cheeked girl or an honest, robust boy. Environment is probably a more important factor than heredity in the growing of first class boys and girls. Mushrooms will grow in a dark, damp basement but the beautiful, red poppies must have the bright sunlight. Dance halls on the second floor or on the first floor behind closed walls is not the best environment in which to grow boys and girls. I think that the Commission should see to it that all dance halls are open to the sunlight and public observation.

Last week I met a number of boys with their bathing suits who were on their way to St. Louis for a swim. We provide a place in the park where the ducks can swim; why not do as much for our boys and girls? The water at St. Louis contains the sewage of two cities and our boys are in great danger of getting typhoid bacilli when they bathe in this water. We have much better water for bathing in Alma than they have at St. Louis for there are no large cities above us and the water comes for some miles and it is fairly pure. Summer is not summer to a boy unless he can go swimming at least once a day. I do not wonder that some of them wish they were ducks for then the city would make some provision for them. Why not extend Maple, Cedar, and Philadelphia Avenues to the river, but the land between these avenues along the river front, dredge it out and have an excellent bathing place for our boys and girls and not force them to walk three miles to St. Louis and then have them bathe in water full of sewage. Let us act at once while the land is available and show as much interest and foresight in the welfare of those who are to follow us as those who have gone before us have shown in us. Give the boys and girls a square deal by providing an outdoor swimming pool.

Francis E. West.

International Tour Next Month

Plans for the "Around Lake Superior" International Good Roads tour of the Michigan Pikes Association, are rapidly taking shape. Cities along the route of the better highway motorcade, July 9 to 24, are making preparations to receive the Wolverine tourists and to hold good road rallies. The road meetings will be conducted in every town of any size along the route, which passes through both the Upper and Lower Michigan Peninsulas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario.

The tour will leave Detroit at noon, Saturday, July 9, and the first night's stop will be in Lansing. The entire party will be the guests of the Reo Motor Car Company, from the arrival at 6 p. m. until the departure Sunday morning at 7:30. A monster road meeting will be conducted Saturday evening, probably on the Capitol lawn, by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce and the Lansing Automobile Association.

Sunday morning the tourists will pass through Alma on the way to Mt. Pleasant. At noon the tourists will be feted by the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce; Clara is planning a royal welcome during the afternoon and the night stop will be in Grayling. Noon of Monday will be spent in Cheboygan, where the tour will be the guests of the Cheboygan citizens and the night stop is in St. Ignace. At the first stop in the Upper Peninsula the Sault Ste. Marie division, consisting of from four to twelve cars will join the party.

Newberry will be host to the tour party at noon the fourth day and Mayor Ben Gero, of Manistiquic, vice-president of the Theodore Roosevelt Highway Association, has arranged a banquet for the "Pikers" that night. Noon of the fifth day will be spent in Escanaba, with Marquette the night control. Noon of the sixth day the tourists will be in Iron Mountain,

The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE

III.—NEW JERSEY



NEW JERSEY became the third state just six days after Pennsylvania had formally adopted the Constitution. This territory, which covers 8,224 square miles, originally was a part of the province of New Netherland. In 1664, after the English conquest of New Netherlands, the duke of York sold the southern portion to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. The latter had won some distinction as governor of the little island of Jersey in the English channel, and it was in his honor that the new province came to be called New Jersey. The eastern portion, that about Newark, was settled by Carteret and the territory to the southwest, where Burlington and Trenton now stand, fell to Berkeley. After a few years Berkeley sold his share to a party of Quakers and two distinct provinces were formed, called East and West Jersey. They were reunited, however, in 1702, and became a single province under the direct rule of the English crown.

New Jersey casts fourteen electoral votes for president. (© by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

where Henry Ford's lumbering operations center.

Crystal Falls will be the night stop the sixth day. Tom Conlin, editor of the Diamond Drill, has arranged to have a barbecue for the "Pikers" that night, roasting a steer from the Cloverland ranch. Noon of the seventh day is scheduled for Iron River and night that day for Ironwood.

Noon of the eighth day will find the tour halted at Ashland, Wis., and that night, which is Saturday, July 16, one week after leaving Detroit, the "Pikers" will be in Duluth. After a tour of the Duluth boulevards, which are built along the edge of the cliffs, overlooking the city, on Sunday morning the party will proceed to Two Harbors, Minn., for lunch, and the night stop, the last in the United States, on this leg, will be in Grand Marais, Minn. The next day will find the tourists in Ft. William and Ft. Arthur, Ont., where the Twin Ports Motor Club is planning to be host to the "Pikers" for 48 hours. This will be one of the "high spots" of the trip, including a visit to the famous Keweenaw Falls. The tour party, with all its cars will take passage on the Steamer Neronie on July 20, at noon for Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., where the 21st will be spent.

Early the morning of July 22 the party will start for Gaylord, Mich., the night stop. The noon control will again be in Cheboygan and at night the entire party will be the guests of the Kneeland, Lundeen & Bigelow Company, at its lumber camp at Hallock, four miles west of Gaylord. Herman Lundeen, of this firm, is third vice-president of the M. P. and promises the "Pikers" some unusual experiences. The noon control on July 23 will be in West Branch and the night stop in Bay City, where the Bay City boosters will entertain the "Pikers" more royally than they have in the previous visits of the good roads boosters, annually since 1915.

The last day's run, from Bay City to Detroit, will be made by easy stages, but the schedule has not been definitely determined.

Bee-Hunting Profitable Business.

In the swamps of Florida the hunting of "bee trees" is a profitable business. Record of wild honey deposits of more than 300 pounds in hollow trees has been noted. The trees are located by hunters who follow the flight of the bees. It requires keen eyesight and a compass.

STRAND THEATRE

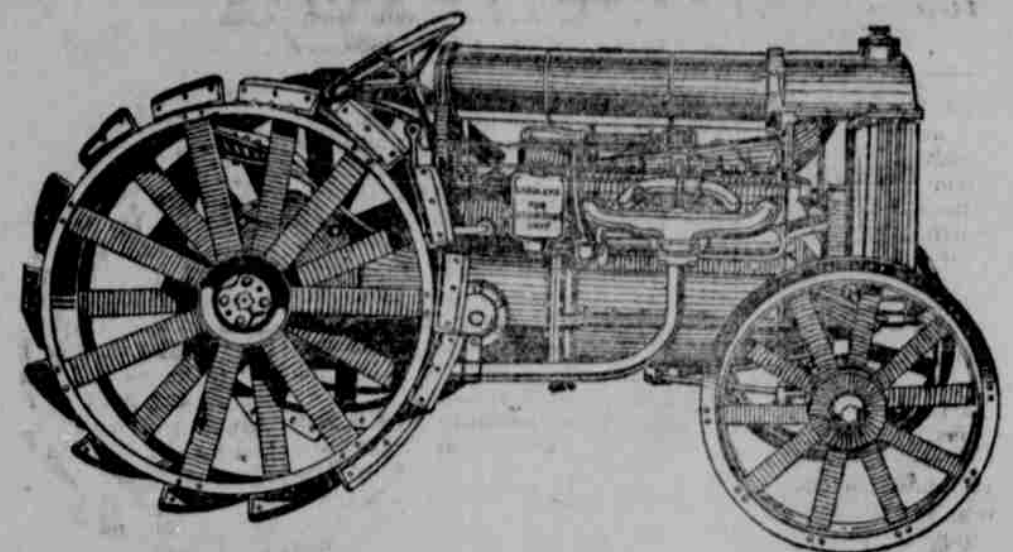
ALMA

THURSDAY and FRIDAY
Constance Talmadge—IN—
"Lessons in Love"
Also Chapter 4 of
"The Son of Tarzan"SATURDAY
Douglas Fairbanks—IN—
"THE NUT"
(Return showing)
Also Merna Comedy
"DYNAMITE"SUNDAY and MONDAY
Charles Ray—IN—
"The Old Swimmin' Hole"
Also Clyde Cook Comedy
"ALL WRONG"TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
Alice Lake—IN—
"The Greater Claim"
Also Fox News and ComedyCOMING
Zane Grey's "The Man of the Forest"

Marshall Nielan's "Bob Hampton of Placer"

Fordson

TRADE MARK



Steady, light, alert, power to spare, economical of operation. Watch a Fordson Tractor in action and you will wonder how these apparently contradictory qualities of strength, lightness, power and speed could ever be combined in one unit.

The Fordson's speed is available for hauling heavy loads for long distances. Its power is available for dragging plows or disc-harrows through the heaviest soil or for running the cutting-box, grinder or threshing machine.

We take pride in handling such a compact, portable power plant.

We are equipped with every facility for giving quick service for the Fordson.

Yes, we also sold and delivered a Port Huron Thresher to John Seaman & Co. this week to work in conjunction with his "Fordson."

JOHNSON & THOMPSON

FORD & FORDSON SALES AND SERVICE

ALMA, MICH.

Your Winter's Coke

During the month of June (and possibly July) we are making a special price of

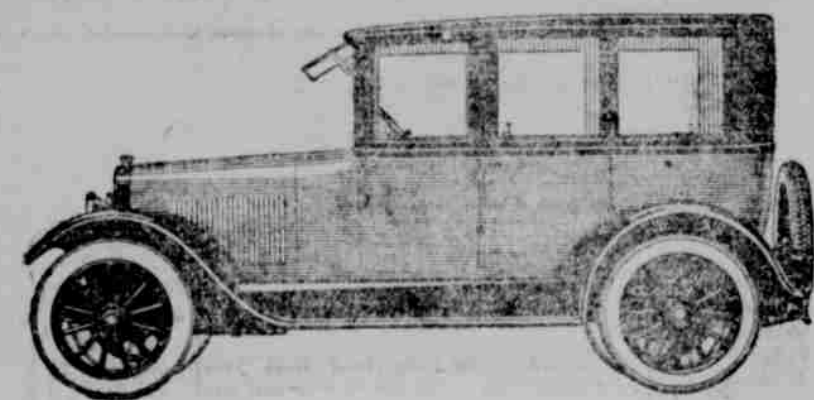
\$11.00 per ton Delivered

for Furnace Coke in lots of Five Tons or more.

You can have this Coke delivered any time up to January 1st, but the Coke must be paid for with order.

If called for at the Gas Plant by purchaser, the coke will be \$10.00 per ton.

Gratiot County Gas Company

Very Low Prices
for a Very Good Car

Chalmers at its new low prices, which are \$300 to \$450, less than last year, offers an unusual opportunity to the man who buys a motor car on an investment basis.

Its first cost is remarkably reasonable for a car so fine. It is actually priced but little higher than many smaller cars. Its maintenance costs are exceedingly low.

Comparison over a period of years shows

that the Chalmers is an inexpensive motor car to maintain.

It is the Chalmers motor that does most to keep down operating costs.

The fuel is pre-heated by the hot-spot. This assures better combustion, greater economy, more power, and higher all around efficiency.

We will be glad to explain these things in person, and demonstrate the superiority which they give the Chalmers.

NEW PRICES

5-Pass. Touring Car \$1545 7-Pass. Touring Car \$1795 Coupe . . . \$2295
Roadster . . . 1495 Sport Car . . . 1695 Sedan . . . 2445

Prices F. O. B. Factory, war tax to be added

LEARY & THOMPSON
ALMA, MICHIGAN

CHALMERS